

**BENSALEM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday
January 4th, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph Knowles
Ed Kisselback
Joseph Pilieri
Jesse Sloane
Ed Tokmajian

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo
Debora McBreen
Joseph Pizzo, Township Solicitor

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of the orders and declarations from the Federal, State, and County governments, the Bensalem Township Council held its' regular monthly meeting as a virtual public meeting utilizing the Zoom Meetings platform.

PLEASE NOTE:

The minutes are not verbatim but rather a synopsis of what transpired during the meeting, and while I do my best to attribute remarks and questions to the correct individual, there may be mistakes or omissions because of the “back and forth” dialogue.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo started the meeting with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo invited Public Comment on Agenda items, but no one came forward and the first of two public portions was closed.

3. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Mayor DiGirolamo called for nominations for **Council President**, **Councilman Kisselback** nominated **Joe Pilieri**, **Councilman Knowles** seconded the vote carried with 3 votes. The Mayor asked if there were any other nominations, **Councilman Sloane** nominated **Ed Tokmajian** for President, **Councilman Tokmajian** seconded, the vote carried with 2 votes. **Joe Pilieri** received the most votes and will serve as Council President for 2021.

4. **ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT:**

Council President Pilieri called for nominations for **Council Vice President**, **Councilman Tokmajian** nominated **Jesse Sloane**, **Councilman Sloane** seconded. **Council President Pilieri** asked if there were any other nominations and **Councilman Kisselback** nominated **Joe Knowles**, **Councilman Knowles** seconded. **Council President Pilieri** called for the vote on the first nomination of **Jesse Sloane** and the vote carried with 2 votes. **Council President Pilieri** called for the vote on the second nomination of **Joseph Knowles** and the vote carried with 3 votes. **Joseph Knowles** received the most votes and will serve as Council Vice President for 2021.

5. **ELECTION OF TOWNSHIP SECRETARY:**

Council President Pilieri called for nominations for **Township Secretary**. **Council Vice President Knowles** nominated **Ed Kisselback**, **Council President Pilieri** seconded. **Council President Pilieri** asked if there were any other nominations and **Councilman Sloane** nominated **Ed Tokmajian**, **Councilman Tokmajian** seconded. **Council President Pilieri** called for the vote on the first nomination of **Ed Kisselback** and the vote carried with 3 votes. **Council President Pilieri** called for the vote on the second nomination of **Ed Tokmajian** and the vote carried with 2 votes. **Ed Kisselback** received the most votes and will serve as Township Secretary for 2021.

6. **ELECTION OF THE ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP SECRETARY:**

Council President Pilieri asked if there was a recommendation for the **Assistant Township Secretary** and **Council Member Tokmajian** recommended **Debbie McBreen**. **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

Council Vice President Knowles asked for a recommendation for the **Municipal Clerk** pursuant to Section 2-26 of the Code. **Council Vice President Knowles** recommended **Debbie McBreen**, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS:**

Council President Pilieri asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the **Township Certified Public Accountant**. The **Mayor** recommended *Maillie, LLP of Mont Clare, PA*. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve as presented **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. **Council Member Tokmajian** asked the **Mayor** how long has Maillie, LLP serviced the Township. The **Mayor** indicated this will be their third year.

9. **DESIGNATION OF AN OFFICAL DEPOSITORY FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS:**

Council President Pilieri asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the depository of Township funds. The **Mayor** recommend *Penn Community Bank* for the Township funds during 2021, **Council Secretary Kisselback** motioned to approve as presented, **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

10. **DESIGNATION OF BENSALEM TOWNSHIP'S NEWS MEDIA FOR LEGAL ADVERTISING DURING 2021:**

Council President Pilieri asked the **Mayor** if he had a recommendation for the **Township's News Media** and the **Mayor** recommended the *Bucks County Courier Times*. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve and **Council Member Tokmajian** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

11. **DESIGNATION OF MONTHLY MEETING DATES DURING 2021:**

Council President Pilieri asked for a motion to approve the meeting dates, **Council Secretary Kisselback** indicated the highlighted dates were conflicted dates which needed to be discussed. **The Mayor** indicated the list of dates presented was self-explanatory, then asked **Council Member Sloane** about the meeting dates September 27th and December 6th which are Jewish holidays. The discussion concluded with one meeting on September 13th and moving the October 11th meeting date to October 4th. **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to cancel the September 27th date and move the October 11th date to October 4th, **Council Member Sloane** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

12. **CODE OF APPEALS BOARD:**

The Mayor recommended *Ed Davis* for a three (3) year term. **Council Secretary Kisselback** motioned to approve and **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

13. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD:**

The Mayor recommended *Paul Giordano, Ernesto Veneziale* and *Marc Winokur* to a one (1) year term. **Council Member Tokmajian** motioned to approve and **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

14. DISABLED ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Loreen Cimino, Matt Neiman, Joelle Pilieri, Phyllis Pisch, Nick Quattrone and James Wright* to a one (1) year term. Council Secretary Kisselback motioned to approve and Council Member Tokmajian seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

15. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Rosemarie Angle, Francis Curran, Lisa Diasio, Nicholas Diasio, Julianna Johnson, Emmanuel Jones, Wayne Lewis, Beverly Pawlowski, Frank Schilling, George Seymour, and Rita D'Angelo*. Council Member Sloane motioned to approve, Council Member Tokmajian seconded, and the vote carried 5-0.

16. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION:

The Mayor recommended *Paul Giordano, Frank Macomber, Cliff Greer and Leo Wesolowski*. Council Secretary Kisselback motioned to approve and Council Vice President Knowles seconded, the vote carried 5-0.

17. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Don Anderson, John Chaykowski, Ken Farrall, Fred Harran, Ron Harris, Lance Morell, Joseph Pilieri, Robert Race, Michael Richey, Robert Sponheimer, Kurt Stolzenberger and Tom Topley*. Council Member Sloane motioned to approve, Council Secretary Kisselback seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Alkesh Desai, Kathy Martini and Tom Colwell*. Council Member Tokmajian motioned to approve, Council Vice President Knowles seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

19. GAMING ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Walter Arch, Joanne Fields, Mary Ann Griffin, Nandish Patel, Sunny Patel, Donna Patti, and Rita D'Angelo*. Council Member Tokmajian motioned to approve, Council Member Sloane seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

20. IMPACT FEE ADVISORY BOARD:

The Mayor recommended *Stacey Champion, Mary Ellen Cook, Deepak Dhawan, Tom Nevrotski, Frank Paine, Ramesh Patel and Mike Petra*. Council Secretary Kisselback motioned to approve, Council Secretary Knowles seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

21. **PLANNING COMMISSION:**

The **Mayor** recommended *Joe Domzalski and Ed Tokmajian, Sr.* **Council Member Tokmajian** motioned to approve, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

22. **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD:**

The **Mayor** recommended *Buzz Ebner, Robert Gale, Alice Gresko and Barbara Carter.* **Council Member Sloane** motioned to approve and said they remember Frank Ziedler fondly, and will certainly miss him. **Council Mmember Tokmajian** seconded. Council Secretary Kisselback indicated Frank and Barbara Ziedler spearheaded the Senior Advisory Board and they will miss Frank and God Bless his wife Barbara. The Mayor indicated Barbara Ziedler will be taking a sabbatical this year and would like to rejoin the board in 2022. and the vote carried 5-0.

23. **VACANT PROPERTY ADVISORY BOARD:**

The **Mayor** recommended *William Cmorey, Jeffrey Darwak and Al Gougler.* **Council Member Tokmajian** motioned to approve, **Council Member Sloane** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

24. **VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD:**

The **Mayor** recommended *Raymond Bates, Richard Clift, Patrick Jones, Jim Pinto, Bruce Siemers, Joe Slemmer and Joe Trucks.* **Council Member Sloane** motioned to approve and thanked the board members for their service, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded and the vote carried 5-0. Seven (7) members were sworn in by **Judge Falcone**.

25. **ZONING HEARING BOARD:**

The **Mayor** recommended *AL Champion.* **Council Vice President Knowles** motioned to approve, **Council Secretary Kisselback** seconded and the vote carried 5-0.

26. **SUPPORT PERSONNEL:**

Mayor DiGirolamo: Congratulated everyone on their positions and thanked all the volunteers on all the boards and thanked Debbie McBreen, Clerk of Council/Recording Secretary, for all of her hard work in communicating with the members of those boards. The Mayor announced Unity Week will start January 18th through January 22nd and indicated it would be a virtual event this year. This event can be viewed on the B3T website, www.bensalemb3t.org or www.bensalempa.gov. The Mayor wished the best of health to all of Council and thanked them for their work and said Bensalem is a great place and he loves everything about Bensalem.

Solicitor Pizzo: Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Sloane: Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and stay safe.

Council Member Tokmajian: Congratulated Council President Pilieri on his position. Thanked the Mayor and Debbie McBreen for the work that was put into for providing this information and found the applications to very helpful in determining why some of these individuals want to serve on these boards. Thanked the volunteers on the boards and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Secretary Knowles: Wished everyone a Happy New Year and was glad to see 2020 over and done with. 2021 is going to be a good year, asked everyone to stay safe and take care of themselves, continue to keep their distance and wear a mask. We need to support our local restaurants and local businesses.

Council Secretary Kisselback: Thanked the Council members for having him as their President last year and serving alongside of him during this unprecedented year. Congratulated Joe Pilieri and Joe Knowles on their new positions. Thanked all of the volunteers on the boards and appreciated their time.

Council President Pilieri: Thanked the Mayor and his staff for all the hard work throughout the year. Under an unruly schedule and being open, then not being open, the Mayors staff did a phenomenal job. Thanked Council for working hard together and trying to do the right things for the residents of Bensalem Township and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

27. **PUBLIC COMMENT;**

Solicitor Pizzo indicated there was no Public Comment received prior to or during this evenings meeting.

28. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to conduct, **Council Member Tokmajian** motioned to adjourn, **Council Vice President Knowles** seconded, the motion carried 5-0.

The Bensalem Township Reorganization Council Meeting of January 4th, 2021 can be viewed in its entirety at the following websites:

www.bensalempa.gov

or

www.youtube.com

Respectfully submitted,

Debora F. McBreen
Recording Secretary